

The Virginia Department of Health is hosting a meeting on May 7, 2007 at 2 pm in the General Assembly Building, House Room C to receive input from all interested parties for the purpose of developing a definition of a “restaurant” that would potentially be used in a smoking law that might be introduced in the next legislative session. The meeting is solely for the purpose of receiving input from interested parties regarding the definition of a restaurant as it relates to a possible smoking ban in restaurants, not whether or not a ban should be implemented. All parties are welcome and registration is not required.

For your reference, the current definition of a restaurant can be found in Sec. 35.1-1 of the *Code of Virginia*. It is as follows:

"Restaurant" means any one of the following:

- a. Any place where food is prepared for service to the public on or off the premises, or any place where food is served. Examples of such places include but are not limited to lunchrooms, short order places, cafeterias, coffee shops, cafes, taverns, delicatessens, dining accommodations of public or private clubs, kitchen facilities of hospitals and nursing homes, dining accommodations of public and private schools and colleges, and kitchen areas of local correctional facilities subject to standards adopted under § [53.1-68](#). Excluded from the definition are places manufacturing packaged or canned foods which are distributed to grocery stores or other similar food retailers for sale to the public.
- b. Any place or operation which prepares or stores food for distribution to persons of the same business operation or of a related business operation for service to the public. Examples of such places or operations include but are not limited to operations preparing or storing food for catering services, push cart operations, hotdog stands, and other mobile points of service. Such mobile points of service are also deemed to be restaurants unless the point of service and of consumption is in a private residence.

Written comments may be referred to Robert W. Hicks, Director, Office of Environmental Health Services, Virginia Department of Health, 109 Governor Street, Room 519, Richmond, Virginia, 23219 or you may email him at [Robert.Hicks@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:Robert.Hicks@vdh.virginia.gov).